

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.     A method for assessing susceptibility of systemic lupus erythematosus in  
2     an individual to be tested comprising comparing  
3                 (a)     a test polymorphic pattern comprising at least one polymorphic position  
4     within an FcγRIIB promoter gene of the individual, with  
5                 (b)     a reference polymorphic pattern derived from a population of individuals  
6     having systemic lupus erythematosus; and  
7                 concluding whether the individual is susceptible to development of systemic  
8     lupus erythematosus.

1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein the reference polymorphic pattern  
2     comprises at least one polymorphism.

1           3.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises a C  
2     residue at position -385.

1           4.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -385  
2     C/C.

1           5.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises an A  
2     residue at position -119.

1           6.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -119  
2     T/A.

1           7.     The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -119  
2     A/A.

1                   8.     The method of claim 1, wherein the reference polymorphic pattern  
2 comprises at least two polymorphisms.

1                   9.     The method of claim 8 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -  
2 385C/C and -119 T/A.

1                   ~~10.~~   An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human  
2 FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic position -385 in the promoter  
3 region.

1                   11.    A nucleic acid as defined in claim 10 wherein the sequence at the  
2 polymorphic position in the promoter region is -385C.

1                   12.    An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a  
2 nucleic acid as defined in claim 11.

1                   ~~13.~~   An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human  
2 FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic position -119 in the promoter  
3 region.

1                   14.    A nucleic acid as defined in claim 13 wherein the sequence at the  
2 polymorphic position in the promoter region is -119A.

1                   15.    An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a  
2 nucleic acid as defined in claim 14.

1                   ~~16.~~   An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human  
2 FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic positions -385 and -119 in the  
3 promoter region.

1                    17.    A nucleic acid as defined in claim 16 wherein the sequences at the  
2 polymorphic position in the promoter region are -385C and -119A.

1                    18.    An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a  
2 nucleic acid as defined in claim 17.

1                    19.    A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing  
2 systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence  
3 determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to the polymorphic positions in the  
4 human FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic positions are -385 and -119 in the promoter  
5 region.

1                    20.    A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing  
2 systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence  
3 determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to a polymorphic position in the human  
4 FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic positions is -385 in the promoter region.

1                    21.    A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing  
2 systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence  
3 determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to a polymorphic position in the human  
4 FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic position is -119 in the promoter region.